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## **Minutes City Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee March 6, 2007**

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**Minutes of the Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee held on March 6, 2007, 2:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Chair  
Councilmember Barb Carter

**City Staff Present:**

Tom Canasi, Comm Services Mgr  
Shelley Hearn, Comm Relations Mgr  
Jan Hort, City Clerk  
Donna Littrell, Procurement Administrator  
Teri Metros, Library Director  
Sheri Partridge, Council Aide  
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr  
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev Mgr  
Alex Smith, Technology Dev Specialist  
Judy Tapscott, Social Services Mgr  
Sheri Wakefield-Saenz, Deputy Comm Dev Mgr

**Guests Present:**

Ray Castillo, ASU – Career Services  
Ron Bergez, Tempe Prep Academy  
Chris Bustamante, Rio Salado Community College  
Zita Johnson, Tempe Union High School District Board  
Charles Keene, Rosita's  
Barbara Khalsa, Rio Salado Community College  
Catherine Mayorga, Tempe Chamber of Commerce  
MaryAnn Miller, Tempe Chamber of Commerce  
Shirley Miles, Tempe Union High School District  
Jason Moore, Jobs for Arizona's Graduates  
Larry Pieratt, Arizona State University  
Lynette Stonefeld, Communities in Schools  
Dr. Arthur Tate, Superintendent, Tempe Elementary School District  
Mary Lou Taylor, Tempe Union High School District Board

### **Technology Advancement**

**Councilmember Shekerjian called the Technology Advancement portion of the meeting to order at 2:26 p.m.**

#### **Agenda Item #1 – Public Appearances**

None.

#### **Agenda Item #2 – Approval of Technology Advancement Minutes**

Motion by Councilmember Shekerjian to approve the Technology portion of the Committee Minutes from February 6, 2007. Second by Councilmember Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #3 – Promotion of Internship Opportunities**

Shelley Hearn summarized that information has been collected from all City departments. There are a variety of internships, with some volunteer and some shadowing opportunities with high school and college students. There is still a disconnect with the internship system and Sheri Wakefield-Saenz and Alex Smith are trying to pull this together. Kim Baumann is on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission and she is researching what the high schools have available.

Alex Smith added that Dr. Vogel of the Tempe Union High School District directed him to Karen McCrae, gifted coordinator at Corona del Sol. In terms of the gifted program, part of the program is for students to find their own internships. There is also a concern for student safety and they don't want to publicize that gifted students are available unless they have an opportunity to meet the person to be shadowed. He did receive language describing the program at Corona del Sol. Dr. Vogel is meeting with district personnel on March 8<sup>th</sup> and she will review the language to tailor it to include all schools.

Councilmember Shekerjian clarified that it is important to have contact information for businesses to be able to access interns with those entities and allow them to have the opportunity to connect directly.

Sheri Wakefield-Saenz added that it will be important to make a distinction between technical businesses, professional businesses, and those generically looking for interns. That might be on the front page of the City's website.

Councilmember Carter suggested having the high school coordinators communicate with their campus newspapers, as well as through the daily announcements, to help get the word out.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz added that the next step would be to add the community college piece. Dr. Poole is assessing this and their marketing department is developing the language to be approved by the appropriate district channels.

**DIRECTION:** Staff was directed to generate a press release once the website is complete to tout the connection between students, high school and college, as well as the opportunity with the different entities for internship experiences, noting that some are for pay and some are volunteer. Staff was also directed to investigate ways to plug the Chamber of Commerce into this to make sure this is open to the business community.

**Agenda Item #4 –Wet Lab Space Inventory and Future Projects**

Alex Smith provided a summary of wet lab space. Wet labs involve chemicals/genetic material and require plumbing, special air handling, and special structural support. There are a variety of small places, but most is unleaseable. The ratio for office space/lab space should be about 3:1 for the biotech industry.

- Property at northwest corner of Mill and Washington (Chestnut project) is the largest available wet lab space of 43,000 sq. ft. The total lab space (6 floors) could be up to 260,000 sq. ft. The construction is set up for complete wet labs. Tenants are unknown at this point. No other developers in the metro-Phoenix market are willing to make this significant infrastructure investment for potential bio lab.
- One entire floor is for start-up businesses.
- Concerning the proposed ASU spin-offs, there really isn't a place for small groups to go outside of the university setting. The incubator piece is missing. There are some small spaces along University that have been retrofit to small lab uses. It may not be the original wet lab design, there are portable solutions to make the labs work. There has been interest in the Leeds building.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked what can be done.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz responded that start-up would require significant subsidy from a lab perspective. The Skysong project is taking a lot of those spinoffs by virtue of offering professorships which provide an income source along with the R&D and the commercialization opportunities.

Councilmember Carter asked about the bill voted on by the legislature a few years ago that allowed an equity stake.

Mr. Smith responded that if there is intellectual property coming out of a university, the university cannot just give it to someone to work on for awhile, and if that person makes any money, they get 5 percent. Now they have to license that out and skirt around that, i.e. an organization that was capable of trading space for equity space in companies may end up paying off more than the traditional incubator space.

Councilmember Carter suggested getting the legislature on board.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz asked where professors would roll out of the university with their concepts that wouldn't require a university relationship to commercialize? That space doesn't exist in any formal way with wet lab space opportunities.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked where they roll out intellectual property agreements.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz responded that San Francisco and San Diego are mature and have, for example, market rate lab space that is affordable. In Tempe the rate is \$40/sq. ft.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked what kind of things need to happen.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz responded that staff has focused on strengths. Tempe is good for medical devices and nano-technology, as well as for developing basic lab positions.

Mr. Smith added that, from the perspective of bio sensing or molecular electronics, molecular computing, anything that eventually leads back to silicon, if we could capture the companies coming out of the university and start them in Tempe, they more than likely wouldn't leave Tempe. It would be necessary to bridge the gap between the land and the IP. A business must have a place to do business and a license to do it and if we can get in between that gap, offer some solutions, and funnel those in, that's where we would be successful.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz added that the third piece would be venture funding at the second stage.

Councilmember Carter asked if it made sense to have some of the cheaper square footage vs. Chestnut Properties.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz responded that it does, but the market doesn't dictate that. Industrial properties have enjoyed the same appreciation as the residential properties.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if there are mechanisms in place to help make start-ups more affordable, just as there are for housing.

Ms. Wakefield-Saenz responded that, as a community, we may choose to lease to a developer for a favorable rate for low-cost start-up opportunities. That could be done through an RFP and it is being done in other markets. The draw for Tempe is its proximity to ASU.

Councilmember Carter added that the City has tried business incubators before without success.

Mr. Smith noted that the City cannot recoup investment, only tax.

**DIRECTION: Staff was directed to find things the City can do short of subsidizing. Actively look at bio labs for internships. Determine the needs of biotech and nano-tech businesses to find business needs in terms of internship and volunteer shadowing opportunities to enable career explorations for high school students**

**Agenda Item #5 – Future Agenda Items**

- Wet Lab Space and Internship Update

**EDUCATION**

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**Agenda Item #1 – Public Appearances**

None.

**Agenda Item #2 – Approval of Education Minutes**

Motion by Councilmember Shekerjian to approve the Education portion of the Committee Minutes from February 6, 2007. Second by Councilmember Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #4 – JAG Presentation**

Jason Moore narrated a PowerPoint presentation on Jobs for Arizona's Graduates.

- The problem JAG addresses
  - Arizona's low graduation rates
  - Large number of unproductive youth
  - Poor decision-making of our youth
- Framework of a solution
  - Improve curricula and make school relevant
  - Improve instruction and access to support
  - Create a climate that fosters academics
  - Ensure at least one strong relationship with an adult at school
  - Improve communication between parents and schools
- Mission: "To help young people to stay in school and to acquire the academic, personal, leadership and vocational skills they will need to be successful upon graduation."
- Applications
  - 3 school-based programs: Classroom to Careers, Opportunity Awareness, and Reach
  - 1 community-based program
- Statistics over last ten years
- Intervention strategies
  - Student selection process
  - Student to JAG Coordinator ratio: 40:1
  - Competency-based curriculum
  - Career association
  - Academic remediation & tutoring
  - Guidance & Counseling
  - Community networking
  - Follow-up phase
  - Summer interaction
- Successful outcomes of each program
  - High marks for successful outcomes
  - Retention rates – 60% increase FPA from last year
- Partnering with JAG
  - Collaborates with school district through MOU
  - JAG provides all training, curriculum and marketing materials, evaluations, regional and statewide events

- District provides classroom, office space, internet access, phone line, evaluation of instruction, transportation to 2 statewide events
- 25% corporate support

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized her past experiences with JAG and asked if there was anything the district wouldn't support if the City helped find money for it. She expressed that it would be wrong for the City to add one more thing that would negatively impact their budget.

Dr. Shirley Miles stated that this is a wonderful program. It is a costly program, however, and cost-prohibitive for the district.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that the committee wants to work with the district to create a private entity to help support a couple of JAG programs in the district to make up the difference between what JAG would provide on the state level and what the district usually contributes.

Councilmember Carter added that Corona del Sol had JAG come in on a part time basis and we may want to look into that.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – IB Update**

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized that Tempe High staff has indicated they are interested in pursuing the International Baccalaureate Program. Essentially, the Board provided \$24K recently to start the training process.

Dr. Shirley Miles summarized that the program is very rigorous. The diploma is accepted worldwide and the credits are accepted across-the-board at all universities. They are looking at a district program housed at Tempe High. It takes a year for the international baccalaureate committee to review the application and determine acceptance into the program. Acceptance is determined by training, commitment from the Board, and commitment from the teachers. There is a yearly review and evaluation. Most of the cost is training of the teachers and the initial start-up cost of training is the issue. There are eleven programs in the State, including Mesa, Scottsdale, and Chandler. A plus for economic development is that it has a great draw because of its prestige.

Zita Johnson summarized the efforts of the Tempe School District.

- Councilmember Shekerjian suggested drafting a letter from the Board to submit to the City Council through this Committee to request a matching grant.
- A letter was drafted, was taken to the Board last week for discussion. The Board's budget is very tight.
- The district needs to see what funding avenues are available for funding.
- Having a district program may draw students both from inside and outside the district and it might help to boost enrollment.
- The goal is to provide different opportunities to help students achieve and to support the concept of small programs within large districts to enrich the education for all students.
- The program requires a student to be fluent in a foreign language before they exit the program.

- The vision of this committee is excellent and this program could be part of the work plan for some of the other City committees because having an IB program is one more star in Tempe's crown for development.
- Matching grants would be the first step in the partnerships necessary to build this program. The partnerships should extend to Tempe Elementary for middle schools and to ASU and to private businesses for the good of the community.

Councilmember Carter asked if the IB program allows ASU professors to train the teachers.

Dr. Miles responded that they are talking to ASU about a partnership to see if they could bring the trainers in and then maybe the high school and even middle school teachers could come to ASU for the training. Because IB trains the trainers, ASU can't give the training.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that the legislature is working on a bill that deals with international studies schools, so that is a potential piece of the puzzle for Title 1 schools. Also, the State Department of Education gets federal money for low income students in the IB program to cover their testing, and this is another piece of the expense for the program. She wondered if money can come out of the TCC/Communities in Schools supplemental budget request.

**DIRECTION: Lynette Stonefeld was directed to explore the possibility of TCC/Communities in Schools monies. A matching grant would be for \$24K.**

#### **Agenda Item #6 –ABE and ACE Program Update**

Chris Bustamante, Rio Salado Community College, thanked the Tempe Union High School District for their partnership.

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized that the vision of this committee is to bring people together to work for education and to work collaboratively to bring entities together. She met with Dr. Shirley Miles, Chris Bustamante, and Barbara Khalsa to discuss what could be done in terms of adult basic education. The idea was to find a way to ensure that all the students who require and need adult basic education programs have the opportunity to participate in them. There is a waiting list in the high school district.

Barbara Khalsa, Rio Salado Community College, summarized that the assignment from that meeting was to leverage resources for adult basic education to maximize the services. From that meeting, a work plan was developed. The available resources include GED programs, English as a second language (ESL), and basic skills for adults. Tempe Union High School has a number of sites, and there are different levels of delivery. The goal is to serve students with a streamlined transition. A look at the GED program revealed that both the School District and the Community College were struggling in that area. An opportunity exists to coordinate on professional development for teachers in which they could pull from the same pool to train faculty and maximize opportunities for those instructors. They want to see more successful students and guide those students into a transition program. They are currently working on an inventory of sites and available programs. The next step is to work with Rio Salado team. An update will be provided at the next committee meeting.

Dr. Miles added that an issue is limited classroom space. More space can be created by partnering with different entities to create more space.

Tom Canasi added that the library could have some possible daytime space. He will work with Dr. Miles and report at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item #7 –Purchasing Partnerships Update**

Donna Littrell summarized that she contacted the procurement directors from Tempe Elementary, Tempe Union High School District, Kyrene, and ASU to discuss partnership opportunities. A meeting will be scheduled in two to three weeks to determine partnership opportunities on contracts. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

**DIRECTION: Staff was directed to include Maricopa Community College District in the meeting.**

**Agenda Item #8 – City Council Reading Program**

Tom Canasi summarized that the City Council has been a great supporter of early childhood education and literacy. The Tempe Public Library has been committed to early childhood literacy and staff is involved in outreach services at the multigenerational centers and Tempe schools. Last year, the summer reading program increased by 33 percent, serving over 6400 children. It is important to help parents and children become familiar with the library and to love learning and reading. Their goal is to help prepare children to enter the school system. This summer, they will also be offering to children, ages 2-5, four programs with about 75 participants in each program. It would be great for Council members to attend the beginning of each session to assist in welcoming participants and their parents and to encourage them to continue to read and use the library. The dates are June 4 and 18, and July 9 and 23.

**DIRECTION: Staff was directed to invite Council to participate through an informational memo in the Friday Packet and to also put it on the Council calendar.**

**Agenda Item #3 –Legislative Updates and Potential Opportunities**

This item was continued.

**Agenda Item #9 – Announcements**

- Councilmember Shekerjian distributed an article on teen driving programs, which relates to an item on the Work Plan.
- Tom Canasi announced that the annual Joseph Spracale Education Awards will be held at the Fiesta Inn on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The price will be \$600/table. City Council has consistently supported the event ; anyone interested should see Dr. Tate or Tom Canasi for tickets.
- Dr. Shirley Miles announced that the Tempe Union High School District Board will be holding a study session at 6 p.m. on March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss re-districting.
- Councilmember Shekerjian thanked Dr. Tate for taping the re-districting session.

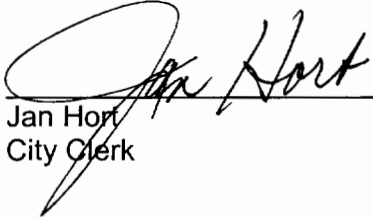


**Agenda Item #10 –Future Agenda Items**

- IB Program Update
- ABE and ACE Program Update
- Purchasing partnerships update

**Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.**

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell  
Reviewed by: Shelley Hearn

  
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Jan Hort  
City Clerk